

CLAIMS

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5. A method according to Claim 1 in which, in said step of employing said software tool, the user inputs a location of at least one said text document, and an application program operated by the server downloads the at least one text document from the location, such as through an open communication
5 protocol interface.

6. A method according to Claim 1 in which the or each topic describes a focused information interest or need of the user

10 7. A method according to Claim 1 in which each of the keywords is one of (i) a single natural language word, (ii) a combination of single natural language words or (iii) a phrase.

15 8. A method according to Claim 1 wherein the tools include tools to perform at least one of the operations of (i) creating, (ii) updating, (iii) combining, (iv) removing and (v) renaming the topics.

20 9. A method according to Claim 1 wherein said tools include tools to perform at least one of the operations of (i) inputting, (ii) updating and (iii) removing keywords.

10. A method according to Claim 1 wherein said tools include tools to perform at least one of the operations of (i) inputting, (ii) updating and (iii) removing text documents.

5 12. A method according to Claim 11 wherein the tools include tools to perform at least one of the operations of (i) setting and (ii) resetting said parameters, or returning said parameters to (iii) previous values or (iv) default values.

(a) establishing communication with a server;

(b) employing at least one software tool operated by the server to generate a personal profile by inputting data, said profile comprising input data associated with at least two topics;

(d) employing combination software operated by the server to combine the input data from at least two of the topics, and the processing software to generate a new filter based on the combined input data.

25 15. A method according to Claim 13 wherein the new filter supplements the
existing filters.

16. A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of establishing communication with a server is performed by a user employing a HTTP browser operated by a first computer system, the server comprising an HTTP server application program operated by a second computer system.
17. A method according to Claim 13 wherein said step of establishing communication with a server is performed by a user employing a HTTP browser operated by a first computer system, the server comprising an HTTP server application program operated by a second computer system.
18. A method of processing a plurality of files in a database, the method including:
- generating at least one filter according to any preceding claim;
- for each filter, determining a relevance of each file to the topic associated with each filter by comparing the file to the filter, and process the files on the basis of the processing parameter.
19. A method according to Claim 11 in which:
- said parameters include at least one processing parameter;
- said step of comparing the file to the filter includes deriving a numerical relevance index of the file to the respective topic, and
- for a file for which the relevance parameter is lower than said processing parameter, the file is assessed to be unrelated to the respective topic.

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20. A method according to Claim 19, in which the files for which the relevance parameter is above the processing parameter are transmitted to the user.

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21. A method according to Claim 19 wherein the said user can instruct the server to cache any files for which the relevance parameter is above the processing parameter until it is needed by the said user.

10 22. A method according to Claim 18 in which:

said parameters include at least one processing parameter;

said step of comparing the file to the filter includes deriving a numerical relevance index of the file to the respective topic, and

15 for a file for which the relevance parameter is lower than said processing parameter, the file is assessed to be unrelated to the respective topic.

20 23. A method according to Claim 22, in which the files for which the relevance parameter is above the processing parameter are transmitted to the user.

24. A method according to Claim 22 wherein the said user can instruct the server to cache any files for which the relevance parameter is above the processing parameter until it is needed by the said user.

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25. A method according to Claim 1 which is performed at predetermined time intervals.

- 5 26. A computer apparatus arranged for communication with at least one user, the apparatus comprising:

one software tool controllable by the user to generate a personal profile, the profile comprising one or more topics, and associated with the or each topic, at least one keyword and at least one text document; and

- 10 processing software to generate, for the or each topic, a filter from the associated keywords and text documents.

27. A computer apparatus arranged for communication with at least one user, the apparatus comprising:

- 15 at least one software tool controllable by the user to generate a personal profile by inputting data, said profile comprising input data associated with at least two topics;

processing software controllable by the user to generate, for each topic, a filter from the respective input data;

- 20 combination software controllable by the user to combine the input data from at least two of the topics; and

processing software to generate a new filter based on the combined input data.

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28. A computer program product, such as a recording medium, readable by a computer apparatus and which causes the computing apparatus to operate as a computing apparatus according to Claim 26
29. A computer program product, such as a recording medium, readable by a computer apparatus and which causes the computing apparatus to operate as a computing apparatus according to Claim 27.
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